SELF-DUAL CODES OVER \mathbb{Z}_{p^2} OF SMALL LENGTHS

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ABSTRACT. Self-dual codes of lengths less than 5 over \mathbb{Z}_p are completely classified by the second author [The classification of self-dual modular codes, Finite Fields Appl. 17 (2011), 442-460]. The number of such self-dual codes are also determined. In this article we will extend the results to classify self-dual codes over \mathbb{Z}_{p^2} of length less than 5 and give the number of codes in each class. Explicit and complete classifications for small p's are also given.

1. Introduction

A code over \mathbb{Z}_{p^e} of length n is a \mathbb{Z}_{p^e} -submodule of $\mathbb{Z}_{p^e}^n$. Codes of length n over \mathbb{Z}_{p^e} have generator matrices permutation equivalent to the standard form

$$(1) \qquad G = \begin{pmatrix} I_{k_0} & A_{01} & A_{02} & A_{03} & \dots & A_{0,e-1} & A_{0e} \\ 0 & pI_{k_1} & pA_{12} & pA_{13} & \dots & pA_{1,e-1} & pA_{1e} \\ 0 & 0 & p^2I_{k_2} & p^2A_{23} & \dots & p^2A_{2,e-1} & p^2A_{2e} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & p^{e-1}I_{k_{e-1}} & p^{e-1}A_{e-1,e} \end{pmatrix},$$

where the columns are grouped into blocks of sizes k_0, k_1, \dots, k_e , and the k_i are nonnegative integers adding to n [4]. A matrix with this standard

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form is said to be of type

(2)
$$(1)^{k_0}(p)^{k_1}(p^2)^{k_2}\cdots(p^{e-1})^{k_{e-1}}.$$

The number of nonzero rows is called the rank of M and denoted by rank M. k_0 is called the $free\ rank$.

The ambient space $\mathbb{Z}_{n^e}^n$ is endowed with the standard inner product

$$(v_1, \cdots, v_n) \cdot (w_1, \cdots, w_n) = v_1 w_1 + \cdots + v_n w_n.$$

For a code C of length n over \mathbb{Z}_{p^e} , the dual code C^{\perp} of C is defined by

$$C^{\perp} = \{ \mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{Z}_{p^e}^n \mid \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{w} = 0 \text{ for all } \mathbf{w} \in C \}.$$

If C is a code of length n over \mathbb{Z}_{p^e} with generator matrix of the form (1) then C^{\perp} has generator matrix of the form

$$G^{\perp} = \begin{pmatrix} B_{0e} & B_{0,e-1} & \cdots & B_{03} & B_{02} & B_{01} & I_{k_e} \\ pB_{1e} & pB_{1,e-1} & \cdots & pB_{13} & pB_{12} & pI_{k_{e-1}} & 0 \\ p^2B_{2e} & p^2B_{2,e-1} & \cdots & p^2B_{23} & p^eI_{k_{e-2}} & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ p^{e-1}B_{e-1,e} & p^{e-1}I_{k_1} & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

where the column blocks have the same size as in G [4]. If C has type $1^{k_0}(p)^{k_1}\cdots(p^{e-1})^{k_{e-1}}$ then the dual code has type $1^{k_e}p^{k_{e-1}}(p^2)^{k_{e-2}}\cdots(p^{e-1})^{k_1}$, where $k_e=n-\sum_{i=0}^{e-1}k_i$.

C is self-orthogonal if $C \subset C^{\perp}$. C is self-dual if $C = C^{\perp}$. If C is self-dual with type $1^{k_0}(p)^{k_1} \cdots (p^{e-1})^{k_{e-1}}$, then $k_i = k_{e-i}$ for all i. For any code C of length n over $\mathbb{Z}_{p^e} |C||C^{\perp}| = p^{en}$. If C is a self-orthogonal code of length n and $|C| = p^{en/2}$, then C is self-dual.

Next we discuss the equivalence of self-dual codes. Let

$$\mathbb{D} = \mathbb{D}_m^n = \{ \operatorname{diag}(\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \cdots, \gamma_n) \mid \gamma_i \in \mathbb{Z}_m, \ \gamma_i^2 = 1 \}.$$

and let $\mathbb{T}_m = \mathbb{T}_m^n$ be the group of all monomial transformations on \mathbb{Z}_m^n defined by

$$\mathbb{T}_m = \{ \gamma \sigma \mid \gamma \in \mathbb{D}, \sigma \in S_n \}$$

as in [8]. We will use the same notations and terminology as in [8]. The group \mathbb{T}_m acts on the set of all self-dual codes of length n over \mathbb{Z}_m by $Ct = \{ct \mid c \in C\}$. Two self-dual codes C and C' are equivalent (denoted $C \sim C'$) if there exists an element $t \in \mathbb{T}_m^n$ such that Ct = C'. The group of all automorphisms of C will be denoted by $\operatorname{Aut}(C)$.

Self-dual codes of lengths less than 5 over \mathbb{Z}_p are completely classified in [8]. The number of such self-dual codes are also determined. In this article we will classify self-dual codes over \mathbb{Z}_{p^2} of length less than 5.

2. Self-dual codes over \mathbb{Z}_{p^2}

For codes over \mathbb{Z}_{p^2} , every code C over \mathbb{Z}_{p^2} is permutation equivalent to a code with generator matrix in standard form:

$$G = \begin{pmatrix} I_{k_1} & A_1 & B_1 + pB_2 \\ 0 & pI_{k_2} & pC_1 \end{pmatrix}$$

where A_1, B_1, B_2, C_1 are matrices with entries from $\{0, 1, \dots, p-1\}$. Associated with C there are two codes over \mathbb{Z}_p , the residue code

$$R(C) = \{x \in \mathbb{Z}_p^n : \exists y \in \mathbb{Z}_p^n \text{ such that } x + py \in C\}$$

and the torsion code $\text{Tor}(C) = \{y \in \mathbb{Z}_p^n : py \in C\}$ which have generator matrices

$$R(C) = \begin{pmatrix} I_{k_1} & A_1 & B_1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \operatorname{Tor}(C) = \begin{pmatrix} I_{k_1} & A_1 & B_1 \\ 0 & I_{k_2} & C_1 \end{pmatrix}$$

respectively. If C is self-dual, then R(C) is self-orthogonal.

THEOREM 2.1. Let p be an odd prime. There is a one-one correspondence between self-dual codes C of free rank 1 over \mathbb{Z}_{p^2}

$$C: \begin{pmatrix} 1 & a_2 & a_3 & \cdots & a_{n-1} & a_n + pb_1 \\ p & & & pb_2 \\ p & & & pb_3 \\ & & \ddots & & \vdots \\ p & & pb_{n-1} \end{pmatrix}$$

where n is the length of the code, $0 \le a_i, b_j < p$, and self-orthogonal codes $R(C) = (1 \ a_2 \ \cdots \ a_{n-1} \ a_n)$ over \mathbb{Z}_p .

THEOREM 2.2. If C is a self-dual code of free rank 1 over \mathbb{Z}_{p^2} , then $\operatorname{Aut}(C) = \operatorname{Aut}(R(C))$.

THEOREM 2.3. [9] Let $\sigma_p(n.k)$ be the number of self-orthogonal codes of length n and dimension k over \mathbb{Z}_p , where p is odd prime. Then

1. If n is odd,

$$\sigma_p(n,k) = \frac{\prod_{i=0}^{k-1} (p^{(n-1-2i)} - 1)}{\prod_{i=1}^{k} (p^i - 1)}.$$

2. If n is even and $k \geq 2$,

$$\sigma_p(n,k) = \frac{(p^{n-k} + \eta((-1)^{\frac{n}{2}})(p^k - 1)p^{\frac{n}{2}-k})\prod_{i=1}^{k-1}(p^{n-2i} - 1)}{\prod_{i=1}^k(p^i - 1)}.$$

Here η is the quadratic character of \mathbb{Z}_p .

THEOREM 2.4. [1] Let p be an odd prime. Given a self-orthogonal code C_p of dimension k over \mathbb{Z}_p , there are $p^{k(k-1)/2}$ self-dual codes over \mathbb{Z}_{p^2} whose residue code is C_p . Therefore, the number of self-dual codes of length n over \mathbb{Z}_{p^2} is $N_{p^2}(n) = \sum_{0 \le k \le \lceil n/2 \rceil} \sigma_p(n,k) p^{k(k-1)/2}$.

THEOREM 2.5. If n is even,
$$\sigma_p(n,1) = \frac{p^{n-1} + \eta((-1)^{\frac{n}{2}})(p-1)p^{\frac{n}{2}-1} - 1}{p-1}$$
.

Proof. The number of solutions of
$$x_1^2 + \cdots + x_n^2 = 0$$
 in \mathbb{Z}_p is given by $p^{n-1} + \eta((-1)^{n/2})(p-1)p^{\frac{n}{2}-1}$ [5].

3. Classification

There is a unique self-dual codes (p) of length 1 over \mathbb{Z}_{p^2} and there is a (unique) inequivalent self-dual code $(1 \ a)$ over \mathbb{Z}_{p^2} of length 2 if and only if $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$. It is clear that $\binom{p}{p}$ is a self-dual code over \mathbb{Z}_{p^2} .

The types of self-dual codes of length 3 are $1^{e_0}p^{e_1}$, where $2e_0 + e_1 = 3$. Thus any self-dual code C of length 3 over \mathbb{Z}_{p^2} is equivalent to

$$\begin{pmatrix} p \\ p \end{pmatrix}$$
 or $C_{a,b}: \begin{pmatrix} 1 & a & b+pb_1 \\ p & pc \end{pmatrix}$

where $0 \le a, b, b_1 < p$ and $b \ne 0$.

For binary case, $(2) \oplus (2) \oplus (2)$ is the only self-dual code over \mathbb{Z}_4 of length 3, and for ternary case there are two classes of self-dual codes over \mathbb{Z}_9 of length 3:

$$(3) \oplus (3) \oplus (3), \quad ({}^{1} {}^{2} {}^{2} {}^{3} {}^{6}).$$

THEOREM 3.1. Let $p \neq 2, 3$. Then the non-trivial self-dual code over \mathbb{Z}_{p^2} of length 3 is equivalent to one of the following classes of inequivalent codes:

Class	$C_{a,b}$	$\operatorname{Aut}(C_{a,b})$
(i)	a = 0	$4.\{(1),(13)\}$
(ii)	$a^6 = 1, \ a \neq \pm 1$	$2.\langle (123)\rangle$
(iii)	$a^2 = 1, \ b^2 + 2 = 0$	$2.\{(12)\}$
(iv)	else	2.(1)

THEOREM 3.2. For $p \neq 2, 3$, let N_1, N_2, N_3, N_4 be the number of class (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) self-dual codes over \mathbb{Z}_{p^2} of length 3, respectively. These numbers are determined as follows.

$p \pmod{24}$	N_1	N_2	N_3	N_4
1	1	1	1	$\frac{p-25}{24}$
5	1	0	0	$\frac{p-5}{24}$
7	0	1	0	$\frac{p-7}{24}$
11	0	0	1	$\frac{p-11}{24}$
13	1	1	0	$\frac{p-13}{24}$
17	1	0	1	$\frac{p-17}{24}$
19	0	1	1	$\frac{p-19}{24}$
23	0	0	0	$\frac{p+1}{24}$

Proof. We have the one-to-one correspondence between the set of selfdual codes over \mathbb{Z}_p , the set of self-orthogonal codes over \mathbb{Z}_{p^2} and the set of self-dual codes over \mathbb{Z}_{p^2} as follows:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & a & b \\ 1 & -b & a \end{pmatrix} \leftrightarrow (1 \ a \ b) \leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 & a & b + pb_1 \\ p & pc \end{pmatrix}$$
 where $1 + a^2 + b^2 = 0 \pmod{p}$.

For $5 \le p \le 67$, we give the classification in the following table. Here

(a,b) denotes the code $C_{a,b}$.

p^2	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)
5^2	(0,7)			
7^{2}		(2,32)		
11^{2}			(1,19)	
13^{2}	(0,70)	(3,126)		
17^{2}	(0,38)		(1,24)	
19^{2}		(7,315)	(1,63)	
23^{2}				(2,169)
29^{2}	(0,41)			(2,71)
31^{2}		(5,800)		(4,142)
37^{2}	(0,117)	(10,248)		(3,510)
41^{2}	(0,378)		(1,71)	(2,703)
43^{2}		(36,49)	(1,801)	(2,826)
47^{2}				(2,1052), (3,361)
53^{2}	(0,500)			(3,231), (4,1172)
59^{2}			(1,1275)	(3,1246), (6,776)
61^{2}	(0,682)	(13,1328)		(2,774), (8,1259)
67^{2}		(29,1645)	(1,2030)	(2,2091), (12,1626)

Next, we consider the codes of length 4. The types of self-dual codes of length 4 are $1^{e_0}p^{e_1}$, where $2e_0 + e_1 = 4$. Thus any self-dual code C of length 4 over \mathbb{Z}_{p^2} is equivalent to one of

- 1. $(p)^4$, 2. $C_{a,b}^2 : {1 \atop 1-b \atop 0} {a \atop 0}$ 3. $C_{a,b,c}^1 : {1 \atop p} {a \atop p} {b \atop pc_2 \atop pc_3}$ where $0 \le a, b, c < p$ and $c \ne 0$.

There are two classes of self-dual codes over \mathbb{Z}_4 of length 4:

$$(2) \oplus (2) \oplus (2) \oplus (2), \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

and there are three classes of self-dual codes over \mathbb{Z}_9 of length 4:

$$(3) \oplus (3) \oplus (3), \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 4 \\ 1 & 5 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 & 1 & 4 \\ 3 & 3 & 6 \end{pmatrix}$$

Theorem 3.3. Let $p \neq 2, 3$. Then the self-dual code

$$C_{a,b}^2: \begin{pmatrix} 1 & a & b \\ 1 & -b & a \end{pmatrix}$$

over \mathbb{Z}_{p^2} is one of the following four classes of inequivalent codes:

Class	$C_{a,b}^2$	$\operatorname{Aut}(C_{a,b}^2)$
(i)	$a^2 + 1 = 0, \ b = 0$	$4.B_{8}$
(ii)	$a^6 = 1, \ a \neq \pm 1$	$2.A_{4}$
(iii)	$a^2 = 1, \ b^2 + 2 = 0$	$2.B_{8}$
(iv)	else	$2.B_{4}$

Codes from classes (i),(ii),(iii) are unique, if exist, up to equivalence.

Theorem 3.4. For $p \neq 2, 3$, let N_1, N_2, N_3, N_4 be the number of class (i)), (iii), (iv) self-dual codes over \mathbb{Z}_{p^2} of length 4 and free rank 2, respectively. These numbers are determined as follows.

$p \pmod{24}$	N_1	N_2	N_3	N_4
1	1	1	1	$\frac{p^2 + p - 26}{24}$
5	1	0	0	$\frac{p^2 + p - 6}{24}$
7	0	1	0	$\frac{p^2 + p - 8}{24}$
11	0	0	1	$\frac{p^2 + p - 12}{24}$
13	1	1	0	$\frac{p^2 + p - 14}{24}$
17	1	0	1	$\frac{p^2 + p - 18}{24}$
19	0	1	1	$\frac{p^2 + p - 20}{24}$
23	0	0	0	$\frac{p^2+p}{24}$

Proof. The number of self-dual codes over \mathbb{Z}_{p^2} of length 4 and free rank 2 is given by $\sigma_p(4,2)p = 2(p+1)p$. By the mass formula

$$N_4 = \frac{1}{48}(2(p+1)p - 12N_1 - 16N_2 - 24N_3).$$

Here
$$48 = \frac{2^4 \cdot 4!}{|2.B_4|}$$
, $12 = \frac{2^4 \cdot 4!}{|4.B_8|}$, etc.

THEOREM 3.5. Let $p \neq 2, 3$. Then any self-dual code $C_{a,b,c}^1$ of rank 3 is equivalent to one of the following inequivalent codes:

Class	$C^1_{a,b,c}$	$\operatorname{Aut}(C^1_{a,b,c})$
(i)	a = b = 0	$8.\langle (14), (23)\rangle$
(ii)	$b = 0, a^6 = 1, a^2 \neq 1, c^2 \neq 1$	$4.\langle (124)\rangle$
(iii)	$b = 0, a^2 = 1$	$4.S_2$
(iv)	$b = 0, a \neq 0, a^6 \neq 1, c^6 \neq 1, a^2 \neq c^2$	4.(1)
(v)	$a^2 = 1 \neq b^2 = c^2$	$2.\langle (1324), (12)\rangle$
(vi)	$a^2 = b^2 = 1$	$2.S_3$
(vii)	$1 = a^2, b^2, c^2 \ distinct$	$2.S_2$
(viii)	$a^2 = -1, b^2 \neq \pm 1, b^4 \neq -1$	$2.\{(1),(14)(23)\}$
(ix)	$a^2 = -1, b^2 \neq \pm 1, b^4 = -1$	$2.\langle (1243)\rangle$
(x)	$1, a^2, b^2, c^2$ are all distinct, $a^2, b^2, c^2 \neq -1$	2.(1)

Proof. It is enough to classify $R(C) = \langle (1, a, b, c) \rangle$ over \mathbb{Z}_p . When b = 0, the classification goes back to the case of $C_{a,c}^2$. Suppose $b \neq 0$. For $t = \gamma \sigma \in \mathbb{T}$, $\sigma \in S_4$, $k \in \mathbb{Z}_p$, we have that

$$(1, a, b, c)\gamma\sigma = k(1, a, b, c) \iff (1, a^2, b^2, c^2)\sigma = k^2(1, a^2, b^2, c^2).$$

Thus $k^2=1,a^2,b^2,c^2$ and σ can be determined once we know the equalities among $1,a^2,b^2,c^2$. For example, suppose that $1=a^2,b^2,c^2$ are distinct. Now $(1,1,b^2,c^2)\sigma=(k^2,k^2,k^2b^2,k^2c^2)$ implies that $k^2=1$, $\sigma(1)=1,2$ and $\sigma(3)=3$, $\sigma(4)=4$. Next, for $\gamma\in\mathbb{D}$, $(1,1,b,c)\gamma=k(1,1,b,c)$ implies $\gamma=\pm(1,1,1,1)$.

THEOREM 3.6. For $p \neq 2, 3$, let N_1, N_2, \dots, N_{10} be the number of class (i), (ii), \dots , (x) self-dual codes over \mathbb{Z}_{p^2} of length 4 and free rank 1, respectively. These numbers are determined as follows.

p(24)	N_1	N_2	N_3	N_4	N_5	N_6	N_7	N_8	N_9	N_{10}
1	1	1	1	$\frac{p-25}{24}$	1	1	$\frac{p-17}{8}$	$\frac{p-9}{8}$	1	$\frac{(p+1)^2-28p+216}{192}$
5	1	0	0	$\frac{p-5}{24}$	1	0	$\frac{p-5}{8}$	$\frac{p-5}{8}$	0	$\frac{(p+1)^2 - 28p + 104}{192}$
7	0	1	0	$\frac{p-7}{24}$	0	1	$\frac{p-7}{8}$	0	0	$\frac{(p+1)^2-16p+48}{192}$
11	0	0	1	$\frac{p-11}{24}$	0	0	$\frac{p-3}{8}$	0	0	$\frac{(p+1)^2-16p+32}{192}$
13	1	1	0	$\frac{p-13}{24}$	1	1	$\frac{p-13}{8}$	$\frac{p-5}{8}$	0	$\frac{(p+1)^2 - 28p + 168}{192}$
17	1	0	1	$\frac{p-17}{24}$	1	0	$\frac{p-9}{8}$	$\frac{p-9}{8}$	1	$\frac{(p+1)^2 - 28p + 152}{192}$
19	0	1	1	$\frac{p-19}{24}$	0	1	$\frac{p-11}{8}$	0	0	$\frac{(p+1)^2-16p+96}{192}$
23	0	0	0	$\frac{p+1}{24}$	0	0	$\frac{p+1}{8}$	0	0	$\frac{(p+1)^2 - 16p - 16}{192}$

Proof. We consider the classes (viii) and (ix). In these cases $\{1, a^2, b^2, c^2\} = \{1, -1, b^2, -b^2\}$, where $b^2 \neq 0, \pm 1, p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$. There exists b with $b^4 = -1$ if and only if $p \equiv 1 \pmod{8}$, and in that case, $(1, a, b, c) = (1, i, \pm b, \pm ib)$ or $(1, i, \pm bi, \pm b)$ with $i^2 = -1$, and hence $N_9 = 1$.

Now $(1, a^2, b^2, c^2) \sim (1, -1, \pm b^2, \mp b^2) \sim (1, -1, \pm 1/b^2, \mp 1/b^2)$. These four are distinct iff $b^4 \neq -1$. Thus $4N_8 + 2N_9 = \frac{(p-1)}{2} - 2$.

Once N_1, \dots, N_9 is determined, N_{10} can be computed by the mass formula:

$$\sum_{i} \frac{2^4 \cdot 4!}{|\operatorname{Aut}(C_i)|} = 3p^2 + 4p + 2,$$

where C_i runs through the representatives of inequivalent self-dual codes.

Finally we give the complete classification for small p's in the following table. Here (a, b, c) denotes the codes $C_{a,b,c}^1$.

p^2	i	ii	iii	iv	V
5^2	(0, 0, 7)				(1, 2, 12)
7^{2}		(2,0,17)			
11^{2}			(1,0,19)		
13^{2}	(0,0,70)	(3,0,43)			(1, 5, 34)
17^{2}	(0,0,38)		(1,0,24)		(1, 4, 72)
19^{2}		(7,0,46)	(1,0,63)		
23^{2}				(2,0,169)	
29^{2}	(0,0,41)			(2,0,71)	(1, 12, 70)
31^{2}		(5,0,161)		(4,0,142)	
37^{2}	(0,0,117)	(10, 0, 248)		(3, 0, 510)	(1, 6, 228)

p^2	vi	vii	viii	ix	X
5^{2}					
7^{2}	(1, 1, 12)				
11^{2}		(1, 2, 29)			
13^{2}	(1, 1, 45)		(5, 6, 48)		
17^{2}		(1, 6, 110)	(4, 5, 139)	(4, 8, 53)	
19^{2}	(1, 1, 137)	(1, 5, 50)			(2, 3, 104)
		(1, 3, 239)			
23^{2}		(1, 6, 56)			(2, 4, 212)
		(1, 7, 100)			
		(1, 2, 136)	(12, 13, 47)		
29^{2}		(1, 6, 181)	(12, 14, 325)		(3, 5, 96)
		(1, 11, 333)	(12, 19, 149)		
		(1, 2, 98)			(2,44,234)
31^{2}	(1, 1, 82)	(1, 3, 446)			(2, 9, 289)
		(1, 9, 107)			(3, 8, 53)
		(1, 3, 64)	(6,7,143)		(2, 5, 231)
37^{2}	(1, 1, 206)	(1,5,618)	(6, 8, 248)		(2, 3, 231) $(2, 13, 97)$
	(1, 1, 200)	(1, 9, 425)	(6, 9, 609)		(3, 4, 495)
		(1,0,120)	(6, 12, 298)		(0, 1, 100)

Remark. Many of the results in this article reappear in [3] with more details.

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